



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SALINA MAN ADMITS HE CARRIED GUN WHILE DEALING CRACK

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Kenneth Wayne Poole**, 44, Salina, has pleaded guilty to one count of illegal possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He entered a guilty plea Jan. 19, 2005, before U.S. District Court Judge Sam A. Crow.

In his plea, Poole admitted he possessed crack cocaine with intent to distribute on the following dates and in the following amounts: May 30, 2002, .93 grams; June 5, 2002, .92 grams; June 6, 2002, .97 grams; June 10, 2002, .62 grams; July 2, 2002, 22.77 grams; Sept. 19, 2002, .82 grams; Sept. 25, 2002, .74 grams; Oct. 12, 2002, 16.31 grams and Jan. 21, 2003, 2.4 grams. He also admitted that on Oct. 12, 2002, he carried a Smith & Wesson, .22-caliber pistol in furtherance of drug trafficking crime.

Sentencing is set for 3 p.m. April 19, 2005. He faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Melgren commended the work of the Drug Enforcement Administration, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Hough, who is prosecuting.